



WELFARE PEER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK
West Virginia Stakeholders Forum:
Building an EITC Statewide Initiative
for Regional Community Coalitions
Charleston, WV
November 2, 2005



9:00-9:45 AM	<p>Welcome and Introductions: The Importance of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to West Virginia families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Introduction of First Lady: Margaret Waybright, Commissioner West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR)■ First Lady of the State: Mrs. Gayle C. Manchin■ Ms. Lisa Washington-Thomas, Federal Project Officer, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) <p>Moderator: Sue Ellen Buster, Director of the Division of Family Assistance, Bureau for Children and Families, WVDHHR</p>
9:45-10:15 AM	<p>WVDHHR Vision of the EITC as a Tool for Uplifting Families to Financial Self-Sufficiency, Reducing Poverty and Effectively Transferring TANF Clients into the Work Force</p> <p>Representatives of WVDHHR will provide an update on their efforts to date in using the EITC and the CTC as a mechanism to support low-income families. They will share their vision on the potential impact of the EITC/CTC for low-income families and former TANF clients and the importance of building an EITC statewide initiative to support the development of community coalitions in making EITC/CTC accessible statewide. WVDHHR will announce new funding resources support these regional community coalitions.</p> <p>Speaker: Charles R. Young II, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Children and Family Policy, Bureau for Children and Families, WVDHHR</p> <p>Moderator: Sue Ellen Buster, Director of the Division of Family Assistance, Bureau for Children and Families, WVDHHR</p>
10:15 AM -10:30 AM	Break
10:30 – 11:00 AM	<p>WVA EITC Outreach Model for Success</p> <p>The West Virginia Welfare Reform Coalition (WVWRC) developed a statewide outreach and marketing campaign to increase the access to EITC/CTC for eligible West Virginia families. Speakers will share the lessons learned over the last year from the EITC initiative.</p> <p>Speakers: Elizabeth Damewood Lovas, Senior Program Manger, WVWRC Tricia Clendenen Kingery, Assistant Program Manager, WVWRC</p> <p>Moderator: Sue Ellen Buster, Director of the Division of Family Assistance, Bureau for Children and Families, WVDHHR</p>

11:00 – 11:30 AM	<p>WVA EITC Community Coalition Model for Success</p> <p>Representatives from the North Central Community EITC Coalition will present information on strategies for developing public relations campaigns around the EITC in their region. In addition, they will highlight the methods and procedures for reporting success rates from communities in the region.</p> <p>Speakers: <i>Barbara Fleischauer and Josh DeFelice</i>, North Central Community EITC Coalition</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Sue Ellen Buster</i>, Director of the Division of Family Assistance, Bureau for Children and Families, WVDHHR</p>
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Working Lunch	<p>Overview of IRS Goal to Develop Statewide EITC Initiatives</p> <p>The IRS has initiated community outreach and education programs on the EITC and CTC, through the Stakeholder, Partnerships, Education and Communication (SPEC) organization. SPEC provides critical support to community based initiatives in West Virginia. This presentation will include information on successful community based projects around the country that have resulted in increased filings for the EITC and the CTC in the 2004 tax season, and the IRS goal for expanding these efforts for statewide successes in West Virginia.</p> <p>Speaker: <i>Mike McBride</i>, Chief, Educational Institutions and Government Partnerships, Internal Revenue Service</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Ms. Lisa Washington-Thomas</i>, Federal Project Officer, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)</p>
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	<p>A Presentation on the West Virginia EITC Initiative Toolkit</p> <p>The West Virginia Welfare Reform Coalition (WVWRC) has developed a toolkit for EITC volunteers, coalition members, and partners. This presentation will provide an overview of the toolkit and how it may be utilized to improve the quality of service being provided.</p> <p>Speaker: <i>Tricia Clendenen Kingery</i>, Assistant Program Manager, WVWRC</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Pamela Mills</i>, Senior Policy Specialist, Division of Family Assistance, Office of Children and Family Policy, WVDHHR</p>
<p>1:00 PM – 3:30 PM</p> <p><i>(includes break and report back from small groups)</i></p>	<p>Building Support for West Virginia’s regional community coalitions on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC)</p> <p>This will be a brainstorming session on the strategies to support and fund EITC and CTC outreach a free tax filing services in West Virginia to truly make a difference for West Virginia families and communities. This facilitated dialogue and will focus the participants on the importance of the lessons learned by the model programs and how to best adopt the successes of these programs in their community. At the close of the session, WVDHHR will have a more robust understanding of the gaps in services, the challenges facing the building of these community coalitions and the support they need to grow and sustain.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Sue Ellen Buster</i>, Director of the Division of Family Assistance, Bureau for Children and Families, WVDHHR</p> <p>Facilitators: <i>David Cunningham and Jeanette Hercik</i></p>

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	<p>Expanding West Virginia Stakeholders EITC Advisory Group</p> <p>The focus of this session is to identify active participants, from all regions of the state, willing to serve as contacts for and representatives of their area. The emphasis of the group will be to coordinate activities throughout the state.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>David Cunningham</i>, EITC Consultant</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Tricia Clendenen Kingery</i>, Assistant Program Manager, WWRC</p>
4:00 PM – 4:15 PM	<p>Next Steps and Closing Remarks</p> <p><i>Sue Ellen Buster and Lisa Washington-Thomas</i></p>